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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

London Library Meeting.

The February Meeting of the Association will take place at the **London Library**, 14, St. James's Square, London, S.W., on Wednesday, the 8th, at 7.15 p.m. **Sir Frank T. Marzials, C.B.**, will occupy the chair.

The programme is as follows:—

7.15 p.m. The library will be open for inspection, and parties will be shown round the building.

7.30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

8.0 p.m. A paper on "EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY READERS AND THE ORIGIN OF THE LONDON LIBRARY" will be read by **C. T. Hagberg Wright, Esq., LL.D.**, Secretary and Librarian of the London Library.

The opportunity that has been provided by the kindness of the Committee and the Librarian, of visiting this, the second largest library of the Metropolis, and the largest subscription library in the kingdom, and of listening to the paper which Mr. Wright has been at great trouble to prepare, is a unique one in the annals of the Association, and it is hoped and expected that the gathering will be successful both from the point of view of interest, and from that of the number of people attending. The presence of Sir Frank T. Marzials in the chair is an honour that it is not possible to appreciate too highly. All Librarians and Assistants who can possibly come are invited to attend.

One of the chief features of the Library is its great book stores, which, being built of iron, with iron grating floors about 7 feet apart, are models of compact book storage. The library contains over 240,000 volumes, and is used by the most prominent scholars, statesmen, and literary men of the day.

Few places are more easily accessible, since St. James's Square is within two or three minutes' walk from Piccadilly Circus, lying between Piccadilly and Pall Mall.

NORTH EASTERN BRANCH.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, 1911-12.

Nominations, endorsed by two Members, or Associates, of the Branch, should reach the Hon. Secretary, Public Library, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, not later than SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1911. Each office is elective, and the following are the present officers:—CHAIRMAN: J. Walton; VICE-CHAIRMAN: W. Wilson; HON. TREASURER: R. H. U. Potts; HON. SECRETARY: W. H. Gibson; COMMITTEE (4 Members): Messrs. I. Briggs, D. W. Herdman, T. E. Turnbull, J. E. Walker; (4 Associates): Miss M. L. Coatsworth, and Messrs. W. W. Howe, A. T. Ord, and A. E. Thompson.

EDITORIAL.

The February Meeting at the London Library.—The Meeting at the London Library, which was arranged as an ordinary meeting of the Association, has assumed an importance that was hardly anticipated when the Annual Programme was compiled. It was, of course expected, and we have already pointed out in these pages, that a meeting in this library would be an important occasion in the proceedings of any society; but now that the Association has been honoured by the promise of Sir Frank Marzials to preside at the gathering, as well as by the decision of Mr. Wright to read a paper which will inevitably be a valuable contribution to literary history, we must at least express our appreciation of the privileges so courteously extended to us by doing our part towards rendering the Meeting an unqualified success. There is no need to dwell on the unique position held by the London Library historically and in the world of present day scholarship. It can be seen on the day of the Meeting, and the beginning of its history will be dealt with in Mr. Wright's paper. We look forward to an enthusiastic response to this invitation to librarians and assistants, whether members of the Association or not.

The Visit of the President and Mr. J. D. Stewart to the Provinces.—We are publishing an admirable account of the proceedings of the Yorkshire Branch Meeting at Leeds on January 14th, and a report by the President and Mr. Stewart as delegates of the Association, on their visit to Yorkshire and Lancashire; so there is no need to do more here than to refer our readers to those reports for an account of the meetings. But we should like to express our appreciation of the enthusiasm and energy which has been shown by our two delegates in going to distant parts of the country entirely at their own expense to attend meetings of the Yorkshire Branch and of an allied Association, which, though not yet forming part of the Library Assistants' Association,

is yet working for exactly similar aims. No greater good can be done than by this personal intercourse between library assistants in different parts of the country, and we are sure from the reports that the visit has borne excellent results in drawing together colleagues in all parts of the country. A wish has been expressed in Yorkshire and Lancashire that Meetings could be held at some central town, accessible to library assistants from all parts of the country. We have already strenuously advocated such meetings, and hope that at least one will be organized during this year.

The L. A. Diploma Theses.—Our readers may not all be aware that the Education Committee of the Library Association has now determined that the subjects to be presented for the Diploma Theses must be drawn either from Historical Bibliography or from the History of Libraries. The Association has the right to choose its own subjects, but we are at a loss to understand the reasoning upon which it limits the most important writing in connection with its Diploma to the narrow and dilettante sections of its Syllabus, and excludes all that is really practical and useful. We have no quarrel with either of the subjects chosen, but we do affirm that the examiners have all along acted as though every assistant were employed in a library rich in incunabula and the records of ancient libraries. We should be glad to know how much original research can be expected from the average man who is not a specialist in these subjects. It is not unreasonable to expect a library assistant who possesses the six certificates to produce a thesis on the more general parts of the examination which shall show original research; to expect it in the subjects chosen is farcical. We regret very much that instead of giving assistants the opportunity of expanding on subjects congenial and accessible to them the Association should have thought fit to stultify them in this way.

The Appointment of an Untrained Person to the Post of Librarian.—A serious example of the practice of passing over persons who, after having expended much time, money, and energy, in becoming efficient, qualified librarians, in favour of someone without such training, is furnished by the London County Council. This influential body propose, according to an advertisement in the "London County Council Gazette" of December 19th, 1910, to appoint a woman librarian at the Educational Offices, at a salary of £120 per annum rising, by annual increments of £10, to

£200. For this appointment they invite applicants who are "engaged upon the staff of schools and institutions maintained by the Council," and if possible "have had experience both in teaching and in the organisation of a library." It is pretty certain that no woman at present employed by the Council can have had sufficient training to render her a qualified librarian, and the first clause effectually debar all trained library assistants—even those who at one time were pupil teachers. It is difficult to understand the reason for this action of the Council which, if carried through, will be a blow to the educational efforts of the Library Association, and in a measure to the prestige of the Library profession. The L.C.C. has elaborated a system of examinations for its practice. It would be interesting to hear the comments of Mr. Robert Blair and the body of teachers if the Council were to appoint a librarian as Principal to one of their Day Training Colleges! The principle involved is very similar. We cannot hope that our remonstrance will affect the present appointment; but we do hope that future appointments will not be subject to such limitations. O.E.C.

Librarianship for Women.—Under this title an enthusiastic, though somewhat misinformed, person descants, in the "Queen" for January 14th, upon the training, duties, etc., of the woman librarian. It is very pleasant to read that librarianship does not mean "the soulless task of handing out grimy books to the somewhat unwashed folk" who frequent public libraries, but "the knowledge of books, their writers, printers, binders, and makers, and the value they possess at the present time": this is quite true to a certain extent, but, with the omission of the adjectives, for the first few years the greater part of the average assistant's work does consist in the handing out of books to the public, and it is given to very few to experience the joys of bibliography. It is also pleasant to learn that women possess the essential characteristic of gentleness to a greater degree than men; and that "in all occupations [they] are acknowledged to be more painstaking and conscientious in their work than men, although they perhaps do not compass quite so much in a given time, yet the quality of their work is sometimes superior and of a more minute character": the next sentence may comfort the mere man: certainly its veracity is less questionable, "Women, however, have still to learn that they must rely much on their own resources."

The writer then proceeds to the question of training, and gives the novel information that there are several

private schools which give instruction in librarianship; although it is admitted that the Library Association accomplishes most of the work in this direction. It is also stated that before entering a library as a junior assistant a woman must master "the rudiments of cataloguing, classification and elementary bibliography." Another method by which students can learn librarianship is by entering a library where they are taught the work. One of these training libraries is said to be the Islington Public Library, "where pupil assistants are taught." It is startling to learn that the commencing salary of a junior assistant is £50, and that of a senior £70. Mr. Brown's report to the Brussels Conference does "a different tale unfold." It is high time that some reliable information should be published concerning the prospects of a woman determined to devote her life to library work; for this is by no means the first article published in which the rosy visions conjured up by inaccurate statements have misled many a reader.

O.E.C.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NOTATION IN CLASSIFICATION.*

By H. RUTHERFORD PURNELL, of the Croydon Public Libraries, Hon. Editor of "The Library Assistant."

I owe an apology to this meeting to-night for the apparent dryness of the subject with which I propose to deal. What could be more uninteresting than the subject of notation, library pressmarks, classification numbers, or whatever other title you may wish to give to the finding numbers with which books are marked? Yet if studied in relation to the classification of books and its historical development an interest can be found even for these dry bones of the librarian's duties. The ways of arranging books are infinite in number, and the methods of showing their arrangement vary from a simple consecutive numbering from one onwards, to an elaborate system of marking that may include the use of all the symbols used in the art of writing.

In dealing with notation, as with classification, it is necessary to begin very early. We learn that in the libraries that existed before books began to take anything approaching the form of writing on paper, when they were

*A Paper read before the Library Assistants' Association, at the North Islington Public Library, on Wednesday, January 11, 1911.

merely engravings on stone or scratchings on clay slabs, the stones or bricks were arranged by subject in specially made cases. It is not difficult to realise that some means were taken to show the position of each, so that when they were removed for consultation they could be returned to their proper shelves. Though libraries flourished in the days of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, they have left very little traces of their existence. Their classifications, consisting as they did merely of the arrangement of books in broad classes such as Physics, Mathematics, Metaphysics, Ethics and Politics, yet show the hoary antiquity of the principle that books should be arranged by subject rather than by any other method. This principle has survived through many a dark age in the history of books, and is seen when, towards the Middle Ages, an interest again began to be taken in books, and the learning that is to be gained from them. In these early days, at the very beginning of modern history, however, books were so scarce as to need very little arrangement. But even where libraries consisted simply in reading desks to which the books were chained, convenience would suggest that all those dealing with theology should be together, and similarly, those dealing with other subjects. It is not possible to say for certain how the arrangement was indicated, but probably the books were so few as to need no such guide. It was when books began to multiply through the invention of printing, that libraries of any size sprung up, and with the accumulation of books, problems of their arrangement from the first appeared. Classification as a science is not confined to books; though some librarians may be apt to monopolize it to themselves as if they invented it and perfected it, and to think that the classification of other things, even of apples, potatoes, and oranges in Mr. Brown's well-known example of the costermonger's barrow, does not matter. But classification is necessary in almost every department of life; and so, too, notation is useful if not necessary wherever classification is applied. For instance, in the science of chemistry, the problems arising from the inquiry into the composition of matter involve the naming of many elements and substances. Where it is necessary to name a substance made up of several constituents or show its combination with another substance, the process would be very complex were a notation not designed to express each substance briefly. To give a concrete example; water is composed of two parts of hydrogen and one of oxygen. The chemist calls hydrogen H

and oxygen O and the proportionate combination of the two H_2O . Similarly sulphuric acid, consisting of two parts of hydrogen, one of sulphur, and four of oxygen he calls H_2SO_4 . If he wants to add some water to some of the latter he can say $H_2O + H_2SO_4$. The result will most certainly be in the nature of an explosion, but he has expressed it simply. Notation is used in many other departments of life and takes many different forms, as for instance in music, most complicated sounds are denoted by a few black spots or circles with straight lines running from them and curly ones in between—I am not a musician.

Now your clever modern librarian, in making a first attempt to give a notation to the arrangement of his books went to work in rather a curious way. He knew the main subjects dealt with in books, and built a series of cases to contain his books. Then he went to the cases and said, this case must be for theology and we will call it A. This one must contain history, let us name it B. The next one he set aside for science and called it C, and so on for as many cases as he had. Each case was rather big, and had a lot of shelves in it, so as he wanted to show exactly where each book was placed he numbered the shelves one, two, three, and so on to the end of the case. Then it was easy to call the first book on each shelf one, and the others two, three, and four to the end of the shelf. This was simple: easily to be understood by anyone looking for a particular book. If told by the librarian or the catalogue that the book he wanted was numbered A.1.4, all he had to do was to go to case A and take down the fourth book on the first shelf. I am of opinion that this marking of the presses to show the position of books was the commonest if not the only form of arrangement in use in the early libraries of modern times; and there may be a reason for these pressmarks to be found in the habit of chaining books so that they should not be stolen. Many of the monastic libraries were so arranged, and the whole of the oldest part of the Bodleian Library is pressmarked on a similar principle, as well as a number of the College Libraries.

Here I should like to say that, though there may be better fields for the study of classification than the Bodleian Library, I have yet to hear of one, and I need go no further in considering the subject of notation than this one library, except for purposes of comparison and application. At the beginnings of its history as Bodley's Library, the collection was classified as I have already indicated, except that more than one case was devoted to

each class, and the name of the subject groupings was added to the shelf-mark. There were four classes which corresponded with the University Faculties: Theology; Medicine, including botany, natural history, etc.; Jurisprudence, which included history and everything relating to the government of society; and Arts, a quite miscellaneous section. A certain portion of the building was set aside for each class, the cases lettered Theol. A B C, Medicine A B C, etc., and the shelves of each case numbered 1 onwards. The complete notation of the books in this part of the library is exemplified in the pressmark A.1.1. Th., denoting the first book on the first shelf of the first theological case. In any library where this system of numbering the presses is adopted, everything goes quite happily if the cases can all be filled up and no more books are expected. But if the library is growing there soon comes a time when the cases get filled up, and trouble begins. Either the books must be entirely re-arranged and re-numbered, with spaces left at intervals for growth, or a new series of cases must be started with a similar scheme of classification, and when they are full a third series, and so on. The classification would thereby be rendered practically useless. This is exactly what happened at the Bodleian. The cases and in fact the whole building became filled; new wings were built and a similar classification adopted. The books in the new portions were distinguished by an addition to the pressmark of the name of the new part of the library as in the case of the wing built by John Selden. Here the pressmarks are A.1.1. Med. Seld., etc.

To illustrate the difficulties attending this shelf numeration in a growing library, I might mention my experience in one of the Oxford College Libraries. This library was very ably classified by Edward Edwards, that sadly neglected pioneer of the library movement. Unfortunately Edwards adopted the shelf marking system. He numbered all the cases from 1 up to two or three hundred; gave letters to the shelves, and separate numbers to individual books; so that the pressmarks are simply 2 a 1, 4 b 6, or 200 e 25 as the case may be. To-day the library has become full to overflowing, and an amusing expedient to gain space is to push back a shelf-full of books and arrange another row in front, altering the pressmarks to double letters (AA, BB, etc.) for the back row, and retaining single letters for the front row. The cases are all, besides being solidly built with good old English oak, made very deep. In many instances, advantage has been taken of this depth not only to double row

the shelves, but to treble and even quadruple them. Each alteration means, of course, turning up the books in the catalogue and adding letters to the pressmarks, or, in case of the transference of books to other shelves, altering the whole of the pressmark. Many an hour have I spent in alterations of this kind. It is, to me, a matter for wonder that so great a library as the British Museum still retains this antiquated form of pressmarking.

It would seem that there came a time in the history of the Bodleian when any attempt to classify the books seemed hopeless. They were coming in so rapidly that time or inclination was wanting to classify them on the old system with its ever recurring need for alteration or rearrangement. In the year 1824 the extraordinary plan was adopted of taking all the 8vo. accessions for one year, arranging them in alphabetical order, and numbering them from one onwards. The numeration thus appears as 1824.1, 1824.2, shortened to 24.1, 24.2, etc. It thus happens that a theological treatise jostles alongside of a novel, the novel next to a medical work, and that beside a biography without minding it in the least. After a while even the alphabetical arrangement seems to have dropped and the books were simply numbered as they came in. This form of numbering was kept up until the year 1850, and the collection is preserved as it stands, though it has now been banished from its aristocratic position in the picture gallery to a more humble one in the basement of the old Ashmolean Museum. There is one thing to be observed about this peculiar arrangement that is of interest for our present purpose. Whereas before, all the book-marking was in relation to the cases in which the books were stored, in these year-books, as they are named for short, the numbering is independent of the cases altogether. As long as you can find the books of the year 1824, wherever they may be, you can find any particular book of which you have the number. This is a distinct departure from previous methods of marking, and may have suggested the later developments in book arrangement.

A most interesting experiment tried, it is thought, between 1850 and 1860, was a form of lettering applied to labels affixed to the books to denote subjects, of which a few specimens will give the best idea:—

Ev = English verse; B = Botany; Lp = Latin prose; P = Prayers; Dr = Drama; Chr = Chronicles; PE = Political economy.

Stored away in one of the lower rooms of the Bodleian is a little collection of books that is, I venture to think, of

something like historic importance in the annals of classification. It is difficult to find any definite particulars of the collection, but I imagine that Bodley's Librarian of the time, or one of his assistants, began to see the absurdity of the arrangement of accessions by year, and wished again to classify the books by subject. But instead of apportioning certain shelves to the classes as of old, he gave numbers to the classes and carried the numbers into the books according to their subject. It is interesting to find that the classes follow the main idea of the original classification of the Library, but shew an increase in number. The scheme is: 1 Theology; 20 Medicine; 30 Arts and Trades; 35 Law; 50 Mathematics and Physics; 55 History; 70 Miscellaneous Literature; 85 Poetry; 90 Classics; 95 Philology. The date of this collection cannot as yet be fixed with certainty, but a clue can be found in the dates of the books themselves. The first book in Class 1 is dated 1844; the first in Class 30 is 1847; in 35, 1861, and in 95, 1856. I think there is little doubt that the collection was started about 1850, and it is not difficult to surmise from what follows that the arrangement proved a success, and led to the developments that we shall come to directly. I wonder whether any earlier examples of classification by subject, with a notation altogether apart from the shelves, are to be found. The Decimal Classification was invented by Mr. Melvil Dewey in 1873-1876. However early Mr. Dewey's experiments began, I do not think they could have begun so early as this. And yet the principle is identical. The small collection in the Hope-Montagu room of the Bodleian represents a revolution in book-classification. Hitherto the standard of numbering was according to the cases in which books were placed, technically known as fixed location. The little collection of which I am speaking is surely one of the earliest if not the earliest arranged on the principle of relative location.

This early classification scheme went further than the provision of a notation for subjects. It assigned as complete a book number to each individual book as any shelf mark could do, and that by a simple and effective means. Books of different sizes were separated and the letters a, b, or c given to the respective sizes. Then in each class and size the books were numbered one onwards. In section 35, law for example, there would be three sequences, 35 a 1; 35 b 1; and 35 c 1. Thus early was established a complete notation, by which books were individualized, without the necessity for their being assigned to any particular bookcases. The collection could be moved about at will

without necessitating any changes of pressmark, and what is equally important it was expansive. If any sections became full, the rest could be moved on to allow further space *ad infinitum*, or at any rate to the full extent of the library building. Even now additions can be made to it when any valuable books of an early date are purchased by the library.

This brings us to a consideration of the later developments of notation, not only in the Bodleian, but also in the libraries of the world. The simple notation just described contains all the essentials of a book number, namely, a short sign for each class; and then a number for each book in that class. That notation can be elaborated to show more than this we shall see a little further on. In 1850 the "year books" ceased and gave place to a classification scheme similar in principle to the little collection in the Hope Montagu Room, like it based on the original main classes of the Library, but with an entirely different notation. In the first table is given a reprint, slightly abbreviated of the "plan of classification" presented with the "Report of the Committee of the Curators of the Bodleian Library," in February, 1878. I have given the old classification scheme, which was in use from 1860 or some time before, to 1880, because Mr. E. W. B. Nicholson, on becoming Bodley's Librarian in 1882, used it as the basis of an extended scheme which, in respect to minuteness of division rivals any of the existing schemes, and has placed the Bodleian on a plane of usefulness as high as any of the great libraries of the world.

I wish that I could give here a table of the Bodleian Classification at present in use, because it is deserving of close attention, and is at present unknown beyond the limits of the library. The scheme is probably unsuitable for any other library, but if studied in connection with the history of the library is of extreme interest, both from the point of view of the closeness of division carried out as necessitated by the actual books in hand, and because its main classes resemble the original arrangement to a sufficient extent to show a continuity of classification during nearly the whole history of the library. The commencement of an entirely new numeration would have involved the clashing of the old and new shelf-marks. To reclassify the volumes marked under the old scheme, would have necessitated more than 300,000 alterations in the catalogue.

Whilst the Bodleian Library was progressing in the science of classification along its own lines, library science in general was certainly not standing still. It is curious to note that what happened at the Bodleian found a counterpart in libraries in general, though it may be from different

Developments in the Classification of the Bodleian Library from its commencement to 1880.

Fixed Location. Main classes, corresponding with the University Faculties.	MEDICINE. 151-165 151 Medicines 160 Surgery 165 Anatomy	223 General Hist. 226 Great Britain and Colonies 231 Army and Navy 232 Political Econ.
Theology Medicine [Includes botany, natural history, etc.] Jurisprudence [Includes history and everything relating to government] Arts [Miscellaneous]	ARTS & TRADES. 170-176 170 Painting, Drawing and Engraving 172 Sculpture 173 Architecture 174 Music 175 Misc. Art 176 Trades	233 American Hist. 237 French Hist. 240 German Hist. 243 Spanish & Portuguese Hist. 246 Misc. Foreign Hist. MISCELLANEOUS LITERATURE. 250-288
Sample of notation A 4.6.Th.	MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS. 181-198	260 Education 264 Logic 265 Moral philosophy & Metaphysics
"Year books." 1824-1850. The books of each year arranged in alphabetical order and numbered 1 onwards. E.g. 1824.1 or 24.1 1824.2 1824.3 etc.	181 Arith. and Algebra 182 Calculus 183 Geometry 184 Astronomy 185 Optics 186 Mechanics 187 Misc. Math. 188 Geology 189 Zoology 191 Agriculture and botany 193 Chemistry 196 Electricity 198 Misc. Physics	268 Miscellaneous [incl. domestic economy, games, sports, jests] 270 English prose 274 Romanic prose 278 Germanic prose 280 English verse 285 Romanic verse 288 Germanic verse 258 Bibliography 259 Palaeography 249 Novels and romances. 250 251
Relative location. About 1850. 1 Theol. 20 Med. 30 Arts and trades 35 Law 50 Math. & Physics 70 Misc. Literature 85 Poetry 90 Classics 95 Philology	LAW. ENGLISH TOPOGRAPHY. ENGLISH DRAMA. ATLASES. NUMISMATA.	CLASSICS. 290-300 290 Greek prose 291 Commentaries 292 Greek verse 293 Commentaries 294 Latin prose 296 Commentaries 297 Latin verse 298 Commentaries 299 Misc. prose (Since the Classic Age) 300 Misc. verse
Classification scheme in use from 1860?-1880.	HISTORY. 201-246	PHILOLOGY. 301-305
THEOLOGY. 100-147 100 Sermons 101 Commentaries 110 Eccl. history 130 Controversies 133 Missions 138 Liturgies 141 Miscellaneous 147 Sacred Poetry	201 Geography 203 Voyages and travels 210 Biography, Letters, etc. 218 Genealogy and Heraldry 220 Chronology 221 Ancient History and Mythology	301 Comparative 302 English 303 Foreign 304 Greek 305 Latin

Separate Collections.

causes. I have already indicated that fixed location seems to have been general in the early days of libraries. At the passing of the Public Libraries Act there was no scheme of arrangement to follow. The writings of Edwards were practically the only publications existing, and it seems that he had not got beyond the idea of making the shelves the standard of numbering. The libraries that adopted the fixed method of arrangement would soon be in trouble from the unequal growth of different sections. It is my belief that the want of a classification notation helped toward the universality of the adoption, in English public libraries at any rate, of the so-called classification by main classes. I do not pretend to say it was the chief cause of this system. That should be sought rather in the poor financial provision for libraries, which did not allow enough money to pay men of sufficient ability to organize and arrange the collections scientifically. In the circumstances there is no cause for surprise that the registering of books did not get much beyond a simple numbering from one onwards as they were bought, a numbering which was used in the shelf arrangement. I suppose these numbers can be called a notation, but certainly not a classification notation. Quite a startling innovation would be the classification into about eight or nine main classes already mentioned, that were referred to by letters A, B, C, etc., and that had each its numbering from one onwards as the books arrived. A 1, A 2, A 3 is certainly more of a notation, but it doesn't carry one very far, since in the section science, for instance, you can get a book on the blue bottle fly next to one on electricity, and that next to one on the daisy or the planet Mars. Mr. Brown, in his manual of classification, has poured much scorn on this labour-saving method of numbering books, still only too frequently to be found in English libraries.

Then came the real study of the subject of book arrangement, signalled in print first by the Dewey Decimal Classification, with a notation purely numerical; then by Cutter's "Expansive" scheme, with a notation consisting entirely of letters; later by Mr. Brown's "Adjustable" Classification, with its combination of letter and number, and last, but not least, bringing it right down to date, by Mr. Brown's "Subject" Classification. You are probably all familiar with the features of each, but in order further to illustrate my point I give in a second table a comparison of four of the principal classification schemes, followed by a section from each to show the methods of division.

(To be continued.)

Comparison of the main classes of four of the principal Classification schemes to show their notations; together with one section of each in detail.

BODLEIAN.	DECIMAL.	EXPANSIVE.	SUBJECT.
96-149 Theology	000 General	A General	A Generalia
150-169 Medicine	100 Philosophy	B Religion	B-D Physical Sciences
170-179 Arts and Trades	200 Theology	BR Religion	E-F Biological Sciences
180-199 Natural Science	300 Sociology	E Biography	G-H Ethnology and Medicine
200-209 Travel	400 Philology	F History	I Economic Biology
210-220 Biography, Heraldry and History	500 Natural Science	G Geography and Travel	J-K Philosophy and Religion
230-248 Sociology	600 Useful Arts	H Social Science	L Social Sciences
250-299 Literature	700 Fine Arts	L Science and Arts	M Language & Literature
301-329 Language	800 Literature	M Natural Sciences	N Literary Forms
340-399 Miscellaneous	900 History and Description	Q Medicine	O-W History, Geography
		R Useful Arts	X Biography
		X Arts of Communication by Language	
384 Amusements, General history	790 Amusements	V Recreative Arts	H 720 Athletic sports
3841 General history	791 Public entertainments	Va Festivals	721 Walking
3842 Dictionaries	792 Theatre	Vat Athletics	722 Running
38423 Greek	793 Indoor amusements	Vay Acrobatics	723 Paperchasing
384233 Roman	794 Games of Skill	Vaz Circus	724 Jumping
38426 Other ancient	794.1 Chess	Vb Fighting sports	728 Boxing
3843 Modern	794.11 Chess openings	Vbf Fencing	733 Mountaineering
38431 Gymnastics	794.15 Problems	Vd Outdoor sports	739 Swimming
38433-37 Progression unaided (Walking, dancing, etc.)	794.3 Billiards	Vg Aquatic sports	H 750 Outdoor games
3844-384435 Progression aided by machine (skating, c.cling, etc.)	795 Games of chance	Vh Ice sports	751 Cricket
38444-48 Progression aided by animal	796 Out-door sports	Vi Land locomotive sports	756 Baseball
384485-49 Progression by animal only	797 Boating and Ball	Vk Ball games	758 Golf
	798 Horsemanship	Vm Indoor games	759 Tennis
	799 Fishing, Hunting, etc.		785 Mechanical amusements
			H 800 Field sports
			H 900 Recreative arts
			910 Indoor games

PROCEEDINGS.

INAUGURAL MEETING, LENT AND SUMMER TERM.

For the second time in the history of that library, the Association met at the North Islington Library, Manor Gardens, on Wednesday, January 11th, and were welcomed and entertained delightfully by the Islington Libraries' Club, the members of which kindly provided refreshments, tastefully served before and after the Meeting. MR. JAMES DUFF BROWN, the Borough Librarian of Islington, took the chair at 8 p.m., after the opportunity had been taken by those not already familiar with the library of making a tour of inspection of the building. He welcomed the Association to Islington, saying that he was always glad to see the Association there, and would like to see similar meetings at all the big library centres in the country. The Meeting, which took place in the Lecture Hall, was distinguished by the presence of MR. E. C. WICKENS, of the Liverpool Public Libraries, the Honorary Secretary of the Liverpool and District Association of Assistant Librarians, who journeyed down from Liverpool for the sole purpose of delivering his paper on "Ourselves and the Future," which will appear in a subsequent issue of the Journal. The stimulating address that he gave was thoroughly appreciated by all that were present, and there was an unanimous feeling of pleasure at his presence in person, though at considerable trouble and expense. There was only time for a brief discussion, because Mr. Wickens had to hurry away all too soon to catch a train back to Liverpool. After his reply to the discussion, and a vote of thanks had been cordially to him, he left the meeting, and the Chairman called on the Honorary Editor (Mr. H. R. Purnell) to read the paper on "The Development of Notation in Classification," a portion of which appears in the present number. Copies of the tables were printed beforehand, and distributed for the use of the meeting. There was an interesting discussion, in which THE CHAIRMAN, Mr. C. J. PURNELL (London Library, late of the Bodleian Library), Messrs. PEACH (Gray's Inn), COUTTS (North Islington), and THE PRESIDENT took part. Votes of thanks to the Chairman and to the Islington Libraries' Club concluded the meeting.

SOUTH WALES BRANCH: DECEMBER MEETING.

The December meeting was held at the Central Library, Cardiff, on Wednesday, December 14th, when MR. SETH CONROY read a paper entitled, "The Conditions of Library Service: an Ex-Assistant's Views," and MR. L. CHUBB read a paper on, "The Conditions of Library Service: an Inside View."

Mr. Conroy first criticized the present methods of selecting assistants, who possessed neither educational abilities nor aptitude for library work. He remarked that assistants chosen in this manner could not be expected to take a serious interest in their work. The constant coming and going of assistants bore evidence to the unsoundness of the present system. The number of girls who entered the profession, with not the slightest intention of taking it seriously, was on the increase. Mr. Conroy paid a sincere tribute to those assistants, who, in spite of many serious obstacles, strove in the thankless task of raising the status of the profession.

Mr. Chubb's paper dealt first of all with the general misconception of the work of a library assistant. He then went on to explain the amount of knowledge expected from an ordinary library assistant, and the many duties he has to perform. Whilst admitting that the present conditions of assistants were anything but ideal, they had, if they were at all fond of their work, many compensations. Library affairs were in a transition state, and if assistants would only organize, and endeavour to qualify themselves, they need not fear for the future. A short but animated discussion followed. At the conclusion of the meeting, MR. HARRY FARR, the City Librarian, made a presentation to Mr. Seth Conroy, on behalf of the staff of the Cardiff Public Libraries. Mr. Conroy resigned his position as Chief Assistant in the Central Reference Library in November last. He was appointed in 1903, and will be greatly missed at future meetings of the Branch.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Branch took place in Leeds under pleasant circumstances, on Thursday, January 12th. The meeting was held at the Leeds Institute, and was altogether a success. The programme combined the features of a social function with good practical business, the company being entertained to tea by MR. COUNCILLOR ROBERTS, Chairman of the Leeds

Public Libraries Committee, this being the second occasion the Branch has enjoyed his hospitality. At the ensuing business meeting, Mr. Roberts was unanimously elected an Hon. Fellow of the Branch. In the interval between tea and the evening meeting, the several committees met and drew up their reports. The financial statement showed a deficit of 4s. 6d.; but with several subscriptions outstanding this is to be regarded as satisfactory. The membership of the Branch is now 68, as compared with 32 in the first year, so that very distinct advance has marked the society's brief history. The new officers of the Branch are MR. J. C. HANDBY (Bradford), President, and MR. A. J. HAWKES (Leeds), Secretary; MR. W. PROCTER (Leeds) remains at his post as Treasurer. Very cordial votes of thanks were accorded the retiring officers, both gentlemen being elected to the vacant vice-presidencies as a mark of appreciation. The meeting was noteworthy in two respects, being honoured both in its chairman for the evening, and in its visitors. MR. T. W. HAND, City Librarian of Leeds and an Hon. Fellow, presided; whilst a visit was paid to the Branch by MR. W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, President of the Association, and MR. J. D. STEWART, of Islington. MR. SAYERS, who received a warm welcome on rising, delivered a stimulating and thoughtful address. He was pleased to be once again in Yorkshire—the country of broad acres, energetic people, and the best cooking in the country. The energy of its people was reflected in the progress of the Branch. Its foundation four years ago had led to the formation of the other branches in the country, and he hoped the Branch would continue its leavening influence. The Annual Report was one they might be well congratulated upon; whilst they had officers who had done well for the society. The Branch was advertising itself and Yorkshire. Turning to the question of the public acknowledgment of the profession, the President said that the time would come when the Public Library service shewed itself worthy of that respect and acknowledgment. The efficiency and success of the library service largely depended on the staff. When the public paid more, it expected more, and it was no use library assistants crying out for better recognition, unless they shewed themselves capable of rising to a higher level. The Council of the L.A.A. were now engaged in collecting information relative to the salaries, hours and incomes of the libraries of the country, and one thing was certain, conditions were improving. Salaries were going up to a more reasonable level, this being largely due to the collective efforts of the

assistants and to the sympathy of the various chief librarians. The object of the information they were collecting was to enable the Association to construct a statement of what they collectively considered to be fair conditions, to set a standard of hours, salaries, and conditions of work from which information might be gained, and to which appeal might be made. The Association was also finding out what Committees did for their staffs in the matter of granting facilities for study, and for attending classes and lectures. Hours, in many libraries, were, it seemed, distinctly bad. He (Mr. Sayers) thought four-hour stretches were to be considered the limit if assistants were to do real intellectual work, such as undoubtedly was required of them. Daily duties from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with one hour intervals for meals, which obtained in many libraries, were, he considered, most unreasonable, as the assistants were quite unable to equip themselves for the future by private study. The bad conditions were not the result of lack of interest on the part of chiefs, but of public opinion which provided insufficient staff. Public opinion would have to be cultivated by being impressed by work done. The public were not moved by anticipating what might be done, they could be influenced only by what had been done. Therefore it behoved assistants to make themselves efficient, to make themselves in every way a body of men and women worthy of public respect. The paths for doing this were individual study, classes, either at a centre or by correspondence, and by work in connection with the Association. The ideal to be aimed at was general culture and professional "tone." Beyond and consonant with his daily work there was an ample field for intellectual development. An assistant might specialize in one subject, such as philosophy, and become a real expert in that branch of thought; or he might take up several; but whatever choice was made, let the assistant apply himself diligently, and by so doing bring the atmosphere of the academy into the library. If an assistant had small inclination for outside pursuits, there was still a large professional field open. Specialization in some branch of library technics was badly needed. Many assistants thought these subjects barren and worked out, but, as a matter of fact, there was hardly a branch of professional work which did not offer scope to an intelligent and earnest assistant. There was room for experts and innovators in every department. In conclusion, Mr. Sayers urged that a death-blow should be given to the popular impression that the library assistant was an animated ticket

machine. Better treatment would follow public respect, but it was not to be forgotten that when better rewards were offered, they would be coupled with bigger demands. MR. STEWART, who followed the President, met with an equally hearty reception, and remarked that the previous speaker had left him with very little to say. However, there was a feature in library work that had not been touched upon, that was the business aspect. Mr. Stewart advocated running libraries as business concerns. The keynote of business was a return for money invested. When the public invested its money in libraries, it expected to get a return in some form or another, and that could only happen if full advantage was taken of the facilities offered by a public library. Considering the ignorance which still prevailed concerning even the existence of the public library, how was this to be accomplished? By the method adopted by every man of commerce who wished to make his business a success: that is by advertisement. There were several methods of advertisement open to the public libraries, each of which would undoubtedly have valuable results. Perhaps the best was the clerkships, and for its teachers, and it requires the highest professional qualifications from its other officers; and there does not seem to be any reason for this lapse from its usual frequent use of the local papers for notes concerning library developments, new books, special collections, and topical bibliographies. The library was of especial value to editors and journalists, so that it was possible to keep on good terms with them by judicious obligation. Library lectures he (Mr. Stewart) instanced as a particularly good method, since they gave the librarian a threefold opportunity. Lectures needed to be definitely advertised, and whilst appealing direct to the public, good lectures were always well reported in the local press. The most useful advertisement for any commodity was undoubtedly the reputation of the articles supplied, and in the case of public libraries efficient and effective service would of itself secure public recognition, and thus advertise the institution. Certainly advertisement was needed, but only energy and enterprise would secure it. Those taking part in the brief discussion which followed the two addresses were Messrs. Procter, Handby (the new President), Strother (retiring President), Ellison, Hawkes, McLeannan and Treliving. Mr. Hand was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for presiding, a similar tribute being paid to the visitors, and after sundry items of business were concluded, the meeting terminated.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATIONS, 1911

SUBJECTS OF ESSAYS.

SECTION I : Lord Macaulay: the Man and His Work ; *or*, John Ruskin the Man and His Work.

SECTION II : The Literature relating to Library Associations in All Countries.

SECTION III : A Comparison of the Classifications of Knowledge composed by Aristotle, Francis Bacon, Auguste Comte, and Herbert Spencer.

SECTION IV : A Critical Account of the Aids necessary to Annotators.

SECTION V : The Libraries of Government Departments in England.

SECTION VI : The Advisability of Placing All Local Records in a Municipal Library ; the Best Means of Preserving the Same and Making Them Accessible to the Public.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL LIBRARY. At a Meeting of the Federal Library Committee, it was decided that applications be invited for the newly created position of cataloguer of the library, salary to begin at £250 a year, and advance by increments to a maximum of £400 a year. At present there are between 20,000 and 30,000 volumes in the Federal Library, and the number is being increased by about 3,000 or 4,000 a year. These are apart altogether from the Petherick collection of Australian literature. Melbourne, Nov. 25, 1910.

BARRATT, MISS MILDRED, has been appointed a Junior Assistant, Brighton Public Library, in place of **MISS A. BROWN**, resigned.

BIFFIN, MR. NORMAN W., Chief Assistant, Mile End Library, has been appointed Sub-Librarian-in-Charge, St. George's in the East.

***BOUGHTON, MR. H.**, Librarian-in-Charge, Grangetown Branch Library, has been appointed Librarian-in-Charge, Canton Branch Library.

***COWDRY, MR. W.**, Senior Assistant, Cardiff Central Reference Library, has been appointed Librarian-in-Charge, Grangetown Branch Library.

***MORGAN, MR. WYNDHAM**, Librarian-in-Charge, Canton Branch Library, has been appointed Librarian-in-Charge, Cardiff Central Reference Library.

***MOSLIN, MR. A. M.**, First Assistant, Whitechapel Library, has been appointed Chief Assistant, Mile End.

***VALE, MR. G. F.**, Third Assistant, Stepney Boro' Reference Library, has been appointed Second Assistant, Mile End.

WEARE, MR. WILLIAM, Librarian-in-Charge, St. George's in the East Library, has been appointed Librarian-in-Charge, Mile End.

* Member, L.A.A.